

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 6-11 are pending in the present application, claims 3-5 having been cancelled herein and claims 11 having been added. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorably reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant has reviewed the specification and made corrections to any idiomatic or grammatical errors noted by Applicant's representative. In addition, the informalities noted by the Examiner have been changed in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to due to a noted informality. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Amended claim 1 corresponds to a combination of the features of original claim 1 and 3-5. The second to last feature corresponds to the features of original claim 4. In this feature, it is now recited that the focusing wheel is part of the adjusting device for regulation of the distance between the two optical components. This feature clearly was disclosed in the original specification (see pages

4-5). The last feature of amended claim 1 corresponds to the features of original claim 5. According to this feature, clarification has been made with respect to the connection of the wiper to an adjusting bar. Further, this last feature now refers to the at least two optical components which have proper antecedent basis in this second feature of amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Miyano (U.S. Patent no. 5,859,733) in view of Ito (U.S. Patent no. 6,115,554). Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Miyano in view of Ito, and further in view of Kawamura et al (U.S. Patent no. 6,459,857). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Miyano in view of Ito, and further in view of Khovaylo et al (U.S. Patent no. 6,172,360). These rejections were respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites an imaging optical device comprising a casing (2), an optical system (2a) having at least two optical components, the distance of which relative to each other is adjustable for focus setting of the optical system (2a), an adjusting device (5), which is coupled with at least one of the two optical components, for regulation of the

distance between the two optical components, a detection device (11) for detecting the position of the optical components relative to one another, a processor (16) which is in signaling connection with the detection device (11) for conversion of position data obtained from the detection device (11) into a focal length of the optical system, an output device (17) which is in signaling connection with the processor (16) for readable display of the converted focal length, and an energy-supply device for the detection device (11), the processor (16) and the output device (17). The adjusting device comprises a focusing wheel, the detection device (11) comprises a potentiometer pickoff which detects the current position of the focusing wheel. The potentiometer pickoff of the detection device (11) comprises a wiper (10) which is rigidly connected to an adjusting bar which is provided with the at least two optical components, and a wiper contact (12) which is fixed to the casing (2). This is not taught, disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of records.

Miyano shows an imaging optical device, namely a lens holding frame, having an adjustable inner lens. An output device displays the distance of two lenses of Miyano's optical system.

Miyano's adjusting device has a driving axis. A focusing wheel is not present in Miyano's device. Further,

Miyano's detection device for detecting the position of the optical components relative to one another is a magneto-resistive element 28 (compare columns 7/8 of Miyano). Such an element is a contactless detection device and cannot be compared to a potentiometer pickoff acting through engagement of contacting components.

Further, Miyano does not teach a wiper which is rigidly connected to an adjusting bar being provided with the at least two optical components being adjustable relative to each other. Such a position detection according to the present invention is cost effective and reliable.

Thus, currently amended claim 1 neither is anticipated by nor is obvious from Miyano.

Ito only is presented with respect to the energy-supply feature. Even a combination of Miyano and Ito does not show a focusing wheel as adjusting device, a potentiometer pickoff or an adjusting bar.

Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over Miyano in view of Ito.

Kawamura (U.S. Patent no. 6,459,857) is introduced with respect to claims 7 -9 relating to the feature of temporary activation of the detection device. In view of amended claim 1, the teaching of Kawamura does not go beyond that of Miyano and Ito.

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Khovaylo (U.S. Patent no. 6,172,360) is introduced with respect to claim 10 relating to the feature of the ribbon cable. In view of amended claim 1, the teaching of Khovaylo does not go beyond that of Miyano and Ito.

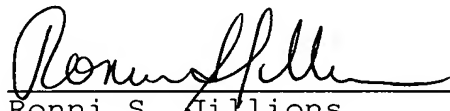
Claim 11 is believed to be patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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